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The Dispater of Sunday.

WASHINGTON, July 23, 1861. You will not be surprised that no letter of mine bears the date of yesterday. My mood of mind was not congenial to even a brief hour of writing. While you were breakfasting on the intelligence of a battle won, with your brows bound with victorious wreaths, we were forcing down reluctant food under the shadow of the cypress and willow. Do not complain, reader, that your faith in newspapers was abused, that the first tidings of success were followed by the and details of disaster. It was the Government censor and not the agitated correspondent whom you should blame for the cruel deceit. Of the general result you have had abundant information. Of the causes I shall not now speak. In this adversity, which would be dejection only that the spirit of the people has reserves of endurance beyond this or anything else that can happen, the poor spirit of criticism stands rebaked. While everything has vindicated what I have foreshadowed and forewarned against, I leave the recapitulation and the reflections for others who may wish to indulge in the task never pleasant to me, and now attended with pathful sensetions which have almost the sharpbess of pangs. Thus much I will say, that no one could be more surprised than I was when assured, Saturday night, from a source which would not permit a doubt, that a general attack was to be made in the morning. I could not surely expect that an intrepehment, admirably guarded in its natural approaches, and held in force by a large body of the flower of the army, with its whole murderous triangle filled with mines and masked batter es, would be attempted by a center movement only.

But I will be equally frank, and declare that the feeling of gloom which pervaded the city ail Sunday morning was not shared by me. I had the highest reliance on the bravery of our troops -a trust which they nobly earned in the battle, and lost only in the panic of a retreat which was infectious and became cumulative in its fatal transmission.

All day the atmosphere was heavy with precentiments and dull with forebodings. Anxions groups were at corners of streets and in public rooms eag-rly catching the most slender and intangible rumors from the field, where battle was known to be raging. About 5 o'clock, a dispatch announcing the capture of all the batteries at Bull's Run was received from Gen. McDowell, with a full occupation of their outer line of intrenchments. It was publicly read to the unspeakable relief of a large gathering palpitating with hope and apprehension. From that time to 9 o'clock the assurance of a brilliant success was undisturbed. At that hour a sinister rumor was brought to our quarters of an entire retreat of the whole line. Improbable as we thought it to be, it had too direct a channel of information to be treated as an idle tale.

At 101 o'clock our own souriers reached as. There was, unhappily, no further doubt. The broken columns of the rout outstripped their speed and overtook them on the way. They reported, however, that Blenker's brigade, which they met, arrested the flight and restored order, charging back gallantly on the pursuing line. At I o'clock, a most intelligent gentleman of the Western press arrived, and all fear and apprebension became certainty. A grand movement, in the moment of its accomplishment, had been changed to a defeat, and men who had faced death in the morning with steady eye and arm, were in an indiscriminate retreat which no bu man power could avert or even make orderly.

The next morning dawned, and with the mental horizon hung with black was the dismal abrouding of a north-east storm, adding deeper shadings of a grief which was but little less than anguish. To my dying day, I shall never forget the mingled emotions of shame, sorrow, and rage. But I forbear. The history of the war is yet to be written, and when it is, we shall know who, in high and low places, have loved and served their country, and with whom patriotism has been above all other thoughts.

Until that most hapless order for retreat wa given, assurance and confidence were every where. Why it was given no one can tell; but that such an order seent out to each command is certain. Only 25,000 men had been engaged. When the retrograde commenced, from 10,000 to 15,000 had not been under fire at all, and while these first were hand to hand, with the very bowels of the earth belching out hidden destruction, more than 30,000 more were in and about Washington, but beyond reach for early succor. The confusion of the retiring files was largely increased by the presence of civilians, and the unarmed personnel of the army, teamsters, servants, and others not in the extreme rear, but within cannon range. The evil fortunes of the day were aggravated by the loss of two of our best officers from active duty by being wounded, Cols. Hunter and Heintzelman. Had they been at the heads of their commands, most of the wreck of the retreat might have been avoided. I will not now go into details, some of which would add luster to unknown and untitled names, and others which can be thought of only with indignation. I am inflexible in my determination that no harshness of comment shall enter into the recital of events which are fruitful in material for the indulgence. So sudden was the redux of the side of victory that it seems as if an All-Wise Power, in direct intervention, burled back our thes for some inscrutable purpose, leading the good through calamity and trial. It may that we need this rebuke and repulse to bring out more fully, the latent strength the untion. That our energy, wenderfel it has been, must yet ascend to higher effects. And it would seem also, as if Trees men had determined by the barbarities and atrocities of war to render themselves outhave and assessing, to be hunted like beasts of erey. Their conduct to our wounded and prisawere is beyond everything of civilized warfare. Cificers and soldiers were piercod with bayonets sad butchered with bowie-knives when helpless \$:oco wounds. One private from a Maine regiwent, who escaped from the field about 11 o'clock erday, saw at a short distance a young man his knees pleading for his life, and saw also the miscreant of a gang who were stripping and plundering the dead, place a pictol to his ear and

the stake and the blazing arrows. But I pass from this to less tragic themes. After the first revulsion was over, then the courage of every one rose with the emergency. There has been at no time a more invincible purpose of pursuing this contest to a triumphant end than now. The spirit of the whole loyal population is admirable. Some expressed tears of an immediate attack on the city, and hundreds of men volunteered to take muskets if it was necessary for defense. Up to this time we have nothing from any other quarter. While the first shock in the Northern eities will be severe, I have no fear of anything from the secondary influence. The Government need have no apprehension of any flagging of support. Let the errors of the past be avoided in the tuture, and the lack of needful precautions for fullfilment be guarded against. The whole patriotism of the people should be summoned. Men and money you must have, and shall have them. Give us the strength of carnestness and the power of energy to organize, and you shall have behind the folds of this heavy gloom the smiles and the sunshine of triumph.

BEFORE THE GREAT BATTLE.

The Skirmish of Thursday

dence of The N. Y. Tribune. CENTREVILLE, Va., HEADQUARTERS OF THE FIFTH DIVISION U.S. A., July 18, 1861. "But hark! that heavy cound breaks in once more, As if the clouds its school would reper And nearer, clearer, dendlier than "e fore It is it is the cannon's opening rear!"

The Grand Army has just had its first taste of the ettle of the enemy, but though fresh from the field, nd yet filled with its excitements, I will turn back a while, and reach a description by the regular ap-

Last pight at Fairfax I went to hed beneath a broad erch in the soft moonlight, where the night before oufederate captains set and swore, but where there was then nothing to disturb my pesceful shumbers; sthing to make me afraid. The only thing to break be stillness of the night was the chr llenge of the sentiels, and the occasional baying of Secession dogs, who would be started into chorus by some cur indigment at the tramp of the pickets as they went by on guard. These sounds were becoming usual to me so I slept undisturbed till about an hour past midnight, when was startled awake by several musket shots in the rection of the Braddock road. I raised my head, ound that the camp had taken the alarm, and as I istened I could hear the light rattle of steel, which oceeds from the slightest stir of a body of armed men, and a low borz of "stand ready boy! stand ready spread over the field of reposing thousands like ti travel of a shower of rain. In the next moment all vas still, for all were listening as I was. In a few ments more it became evident that the abren had no foundation and with a growl at being thus disturbed the heavy legions sunk again to sleep.

At an early hour in the morning the reveille sun soned all the columns to an early movement, but inesmuch se I passed behind for an inviting breakfast improvised for me on the edge of a three-dollar piece, the Seventy-first got well off before I was well fed, and I took up the march for the day with the regiment of my California friends. The weather was delightful and the travel gaily made; and the wish that was oftenest expressed was that before the day closed w ight have an opportunity to fight.

Here are plenty of chances for it," said Captain Ross Fish, as he swept his arm over the fine rolling and well wooded country.

"Yes," said the handsome Adjutant, " and it would seem that men who would let us ' march thus far into the bowels of such a land without impgdiment,' would hardly interfere with us before we reach Manasons.

Don't be measy beys! don't be uneasy!" said the bluff voice of the Major, who came up at this moment, You'll have fighting enough; and it will come soon enough; and there is something in my benes that tells me we shall get a taste of 2 to-day.

With occasional rests, made more for the relief of the

nimals who tugged at the ponderous baggage-trains han for the men, we reached Centreville at noon, and the Fifth Division settled itself like so many flies broad valley that lay about half a mile before it. O the other side of the road, to our right, but in the same valley, reposed a portion of the First Division, unde Gen. Tyler, and behind them some two miles on the same central road had pauced Gen. McDowell with the Rhode Island Brigade and the 71st. In a few minutes. the First and Fifth Divisions had improvised a sort of muskets, and some of them who were not partaking of their rations were fast saleep. The only party that did not at once enjoy repose were the Massachusetts Ist, the Michigan 2d, and the New-York 12th, for these were taken by Gen. Tyler over the hill to Centreville. and before relinquishing to them the afternoon, he determined to use them to make a reconnoiseance of the position at Bull's Run, about three miles ahead, where we had remen to apprehend the enemy had constructed works. All the remainder of the two Divisions being ow pretty weilsalecp, I turned with some officers of the 32d back to a country house about a mile down the road, and by that instinct for dinner which seldom fails me, managed to secure from the old farmer who was its proprietor a tolerable meal, with hot coffee for us all. In due time they left to attend to their regiments doties, but, solaced by the grateful shade of its made worch and the faces of the old man's grandchildren, I

preferred to take my mosta there.

A civilian friend shured my notions, and remained with me, and we lay strotched upon the rude benches of the stoop rehearing the incidents of the merning march as a preliminary to our map. Suddenly, and during one of those lengthening pauses in our conver sation which betokened the approach of sleep, the sound of a great gun loomed with a fearful distinctnes upon the before-dead stillness of the air. We both started up, and I pulled out my watch and noticed that t was exactly I o'clock. There was a pause of several seconds between the first gan and the next, and then me several shots in quick succession as if they were exchanged. The suswering shots seemed, however to be lighter than the first, and we functed we could tell by the difference of tone the respective vigor with which the contest was conducted. We lost but a few which the contest was conducted. minutes in this way, and then hurried toward the camp nder the impression that the whole army was moving

We found, however, on arriving at the quarters of the 32d, that the whole valley was still filled with the troops of the two divisions, and that no orders had been en them to move. None seemed to know what the firing meant, for at that point we were all ignorant of the advance of the three regiments, under Col. Richardson, toward Bull's Run. It was evident, however that the engagement was a very hot one, and the greatest anxiety was manifested to leave camp and run up to the crown of the hill before us, in large to get some prospect of the scene, but the expeciation momentary orders, and the desire to be ready move instantly shead, kept every man in his place. My friend of the porch and I, however, being unrestrained by orders, went up the and got such range of eyenight as we in the direction of the scene. A large number of officers were grouped together there, and ceiting in their midst we had the advantage of their , himse as well as of their glasses. A large piece of wood, about a quarter of a mile distant, extended between us and the scene of the engagement, but beyond its leafy acreen we could see the smoke rise as volleys of infantry were exchanged.

guns; then ensued angry volleys of firing "by plaoon," followed by the spiteful spit of musketry boot him dead. There seemed to be nothing will." The excitement was painfully intense, and as their jungle by the teeth. Before, however, this was and only a scout or two of a few miles made from their of the tortures of the wild Indian except the flat roll of the infantry discharges were poured to be nothing will." The excitement was painfully intense, and as their jungle by the teeth. Before, however, this was and only a scout or two of a few miles made from their pungle by the teeth. Before, however, this was and only a scout or two of a few miles made from their pungle by the teeth. Before, however, this was and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and applications the entry of the pungle by the teeth. Before, however, this was and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made from their pungle by the teeth. Before, however, this was and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of any and only and only and only any and only a scout or two of a few miles made of a few

forth, we knew not whether to shout for the prowess of our friends, or to mourn at seeing them wilt before that deadly shower. Nevertheless, we stood hopefully by our cause upon that hill, and most anxiously did try to gange the fortunes of the battle, by watching the ed on my right hand to see if any hasty courier were coming back for re-enforcements. Occasionally the fire would slacken, and for a few minutes almost stop, and during one of these pauses I could see by a long coil of dust in the distant road which lay behind the valley of the fight that the enemy was being re-enforced from he direction of Manasses. It was evident, also, that the re-enforcement was a powerful one.

When this body reached its destination the vigor of the battle was resumed, and the roar of artillery was the distinctive feature of the contest. Then suddenly ceased, and along the road, which ran by our hi ide, there could be seen coming toward us a single al of dust which floated toward us at high speed. We could not for a few minutes tell what it contained but on nearing the turn of our position a puff of wind revealed within it an orderly at full gallop, who we rightly guessed bad come back for reëu Another and another followed, and going down to the road we learned from them through the officers who interrogated, that we had suffered considerably in the engagement, but that the fight would be reopened a soon as the reenforcements could arrive, our troops a the ground having in the meantime withdrawn themselves in the screen of woods out of the enemy's fire It appeared from these accounts of the battle, as far as it had gone, that Col. Richardson of the Michiga volunteers had command of the reconnoleance, and had entered the eyen ground in front of the wood which concealed the masked batteries of the enemy, with four companies of the 1st Massachusette forming his left, Col. Cowdin of the 2d Michigan forming the right, and the New-York 13th (volunteers), under Col, Walrath, having the center. The main battery of the enemy wa u, on a slight eminence in the center, guarding the passage, and there were two formidable batteries or

As our troops proceeded toward this fearful line the Massachusetts men were furthest in advance, and the first, of course, to strike the fatalfringe which was soon to be alive with fire. At length, when the whole line was trailed before the weapons of the enemy the word was given, and the central battery let fly a gur followed by a fire of musketry, which raked our entire e. Our boys, however, received it with fortitude and then deshed forward with a shout to charve the nemy. The rain was too serious, bowever, to enable them to penetrate the wood, but they stood their ground bandsomely, and despite the gulling disadvan tage they endured it and returned tire for fire several

They then fell back, whereupon a part of Sherman's Buttery, served by Capt. Ayres, unlimbored, and ran forward and took up the battle, the retiring movement of our infantry being supported by a courany of United States Cavalry, under Capt. Brackett, This battery was served in the most spirited manner, and though two of the horses were shot down in their traces, and one of the guns thus placed in danger, a whiel of the Dragoons protected the men as they cat the horses loose, and ran it in themselves. Finally, we succeeded in silencing their batteries entirely, and the pause ensued which we had noticed as being occupied by musketry alone, our men now firing from a screen o woods which they had reached, in the same manner as be enemy. Presently the reconforcements of the nemy arrived, being received on the part of the Conederates with shouts, and thus furnishing the hint that if we wished to continue the struggle with any hope whatever we must follow suit.

By the time we had thus collected the state of affairs s far as it had gone, the bayonets of the New-York 9th came sparkling in heavy line from the hill down into the bollow where we stood. They, with the 79th and the 2d Wisconsin volunteers, had been roused from their slumbers in the adjoining valley, and called upon to go and plunge upon those roaring guns and intercept hose showering platoons, which had already laid low o many of their comrades. I scrutipland them closely as they marched, and knowing many in these chate. had to wave good fortune to them as they passed. They swept along eagerly, and at "double quick." A cheerful smile hit up every face that I accosted, and they looked more like bridegrooms going to their nup-tial favor than men recking the dark embrace of death. The last hand I grasped along the line was that of Thomas Francis Mengher, whose company brought up the rear, and never was the Irish orator's handsome contenance adorned with a loftier light than when he returned the pressure which accompanied my " God less you!"

Following the 69th came the Scotchmen from New-York, their tall leader, Col. Cameron, trotting briskly step. His face was cheerful, but theirs was rigid and as fixed as stone. Not a word was spoken, except by the Captains of "hurry, hurry, boys!" until some ooker-on, unable to command himself, exclaimed "Go t said Reckie!" Then of a sudden a wild scream, or enther abrick, burst forth like an explosion and range again and again along their entire line.

And high and wild the Comeron's gathering rose. The war note of Lochies! which Alby a's falls if Have heard, and heard too, have her Saxon force." It extended its impulse to the Celtic column in advance.

and likewise set the Wisconsonians on fire, and the three regiments went forward from that moment with ne continuous shout, which had no mosming but a nere rage for buttle.

This was the first opportunity aforded me to reach the scene, and my friend and I fell in, and followed on. As we neared the place of the conflict, the cannonade egen again, and we could hear the singing of rifledannon shot, and now and then see them plunge into he earth, or smite upper branches of the trees along or line. The woods near the edge of the battle-field were already filled with wounded and exhausted soldlers nd occasionally we could see a wounded man in the arms of his comrades, who were carrying him to some ould bear him to some opring. The universal cry of these unfortunates was for water, and even the unburt men nay, even these who had not yet been engaged, were arched with the concuming force of the terrible ex-

When we arrived, Sherman's guns were still engaged a playing with the batteries of the enquy, and the in atry were not apon the field. The recuforcements were withheld, and the battle left to the great guns alone. The 69th and 79th, and Wisconsin 2d, were drawn up just at the entrance of the field, pro-tected from the enemy by a narrow screen of suplings; and I stood by a company of Brackett's cavalry, who vere waiting for another dash, whenever the gunnere should require their protection. I looked along the Celtic and Guelic line, and they stood smid the boomng of the guns, pale and reselved, with their lips firmly set, impatiently expecting the signal to go in. One single shout, the prologue to a bound, would have been cheap at a guinea to the pocreat man in the line. As I stood thus dividing my admiration between them and the gallant fellows who were working our guns, there came a shell (as I thought, though it turned sut to be a rifled-cannon shot) singing toward me; and eeing others take warning from its note by running behind trees, I bent as close to the ground as I could. Whether that helped any portion of me from its range, do not know; but I saw it smite a rise in the path about fifteen yards ahead, and had a look at the monstor in my hand in two minutes afterward. Even in that quiescent mate. I could hardly help respecting it

After this incident, the guns played about half au hour more, and then firing cossed altogether, the battle having lasted now about three hours and a half in all. The troops were, bowever, not withdrawn, and it was debated between Gen. Tyler and his staff whether the eagerness of the three fresh regiments had not better. be indulged and a general effort made to carry the " at | batteries by assault, and tear the Confederates from when the fight commenced, came upon the field at 5 o'clock. He rode calmly round, made a few inquiries, and without an appearance of the least excitement or emotion, ordered a retreat. It struck me from the promptitude with which he came to this conclusion that he thought the reconnoissance should have taken this course after the first five minutes and as soon as it had tested the extent of the enemy's intrenchments. have since heard that he did not meditate such an advance with any portion of his force beyond the valley east of Centreville, where the two foremost divisions lay encamped. The whole affair, therefore, must b ooked upon as an erroneous movement, and one of a series which has already grown too numerous on the part of subord nate officers who have too strong a desire or premature di-tinction.

The troops which we had engaged suffered severely, but the loss will not prove to be so great as was at first supposed. I found on visiting the wounded through wards that many had fallen from exhaustion, and that the burts of numerous others, who had been put hors du combat, were very slight. I think thirty killed will probably cover all. It is said that Beauregure and Lee both came up from Manassas with the re enforcements, and that the batteries were served by the Carolina and Alabama troops, under Gen. Bonham, who had fled from Fairfax. It is also said that the Confederates were at the time on the point of retreat, but that the reenforcements came in time to spare them at necessity. What their loss is we cannot tell. Those of our troops who charged furthest forward reported many wounded lying round; but these were most likely men overcome purely by exhaustion and not suffering from wounds. It is charged, on the part of some, that the N. Y. Twelith (Volunteers from Onon daga County) exhibited a want of courage in portions of the fight, and fled at last in disgraceful panic; their excuse is that they stayed idly before the raking patteries of the enemy longer than their Colonel, and it is my opinion that they stayed too long for any ser vice, and consequently quite long enough for credit There are no green troops in the world who would stand before a mere piece of woods that was spitting deadly fire, without anything in sight to encourage them with a hope of satisfaction. There are none, whether green or seasoned, who should be required to

We are now again resting in the valley, and I have found my quiet farmer's cottage to send you this dis-patch. While writing, I have been attracted to the gate to see the gayest of the gay of all our troops-the ashing, handsome, elastic, and ever cheerful Zounves. They came as the invincible head of Gen Heintzelman's division, and they looked to me, as they swnng by, as if they could have "got to" the enemy a Rul's Run, and bucked the bull and his gune from their position had they taken part in the action of the after oon. I said to some of them as they went by, "Ah, boys, I wish you had been here to-day!"

Ay, yi, we wish we had!" was the quick response I doubt if any movement will be made to-morrow, ven the next day, for no temper will govern Gen. McClellan toward an acceleration of his movements He is a soldier, who is governed purely by science, and who does not either yield to sentiment, or study the popularity of coincidences. We may therefore not exect another movement for two or three days at most and if the rumor which has just come in be true, the Gen. Johnston has effected his retreat past this point and made a union of his forces with the main Confederate army at Manassas, we may not have a battle in several days. It will then be a game one, and you shall have it faithfully set down. GEORGE WILKES.

PROM PATTERSON'S COLUMN.

Where he is His Failure to Induce the Three Months Volunteers to Remain - Disband. ing and almost Disorganization of the Column End of his Compaign Disgrace ful Apathy and Bad Management in Allowing Gen. Johuston to Re-enforce Beanregard Surprising Ignorance of his Movements Strength of the Enemy at Winchester.

HARVER'S FERRY, Monday, July 22, 1861, Yesterday, Gen. Patterson's column moved fro harlestown. The main body came here; Gen. Wiljame's Brigade made a march at midnight of Saturday nto London County by the way of Keyes's Ferry, or the Shenandeah, where they are now encamped, at several regio ents have already started for home by the way of Shepardstown, to be mustered out of service a Harrisburg. In a few days, the time of all the three months men will expire, and they will go home, leaving only a few regiments of Gen. Patterson's present command at Harper's Ferry. The 11th Indiana Zouaves, Col. Wallace, handsomely tendered their services for ten days he wond their time, and as recruit are on their way to fill the places of some 200 who wish to return home, there will be a reorganization, and the

regiment will enlist for three years and the war. As I wrote in my last, Gen. Patterson addressed sev eral of the Pennsylvania regiments last Friday, asking them to remain a week or ten days beyond their tim of collisiment, but only a few regiments partially agreed to do so. The dissatisfaction which has existed from the beginning of the campaign among the Pennsylvania volunteers, from bad treatment by the State, made them less disposed to stay, but the fact is, they had become thoroughly disgusted with the service, and lost all confidence in the commanding General. They did not believe he meant to fight, and, as they came only for that purpose, they are not willing to continue under his command any longer than they were bound by law to rust in camp or make useless marches. Nor did Gen. Patterson's speech disabuse them of their impres sions, but rather confirmed them in the idea that he would not fight, as he expressly told them that the on emy was too strong for him, and he would not expose thera by an attack on Gen. Johnston at Winchester. He made an appeal to them to stay, but it did not touch their hearts and rouse any sentiments of patriot ism and devotion to the cause of the country, because i was made, not on broad national grounds of necessity like those which prompted them in the first place to d to the rescue of the imperiled Union, but on surely is dividual and personal grounds, hoping they would stick to him when he was in a tight place." did not love him enough for that, and consequently hi appeal fell on cold hearts.

From what I have learned by a pretty free inter course among the soldiers, I am satisfied that if the nen had had any confidence in their commander, or in his fighting capacity and intentions, they would have almost unanimously agreed to continue in the ser vice till their places were filled by new regiments; and a single word from Gen. Cadwalader, whom the army consider a fighting General, would have gained theh

esent to stay under his command. Thus ends Gen. Patterson's campaign-whether gloriously or ignobly let the facts decide. We do not know here how far he has been governed by orders from Washington, but upon the facts in the case mus he stand in the judgment of all the country. I have made up my mind about his ability as a General, and his fitness as a man for the position he has held as a leader of the armies of people against a foul rebellion of traiters, but I am not willing to condemn him for movements in a campaign, for which there may be higher responsibility. Some of them are certainly unaccountable upon any other presumption that he had orders not to fight, or that he did not wish to hurt anybody, and especially, the enemy. Last Monday we moved from Martineburg to Bunker Hill, within ten miles of the enemy, and except a trifling reconnoisance for a few miles on the Winchester road, which gave no really important information, nothing was done on

the next day.

On Wednesday the army moved at right angles from the road to Winchester and went to Charlestown which is 20 miles from Winchester. It went into camp and remained there quietly till Sunday morning. N movements were made of any kind against the enemy

of the position or movement of the enemy beyond that obtained by a little reconnoisance at Bunker Hill that he was strongly intrenched with a superior force to our own. Nothing definite was known, and it was not until Sanday morning that Gen. Patterson knew that Johnston bad quit Winchester and gone to Manassar Junction! On Saturday evening a man came into on lines and gave himself up as a deserter from Winches ter, and on being taken to headquarters, said that Gen. Johnston had made a movement towards Leesburg, Loudon County, to attack us on that side, and up this false and designedly deceptive information, as it proved to be, Gen. Patterson ordered Gen. Williams's rigade to move, as stated above, at midnight.

If Gen. Johnston was too strong for an attack upon bis fortifications, there would seem to have been but one course for Gen. Patterson to take, which was to menace him so actively and energetically as to draw him out to field fight or hold him in cheek in his position and prevent his reenforcement of Beauregard. the campaign had any other object than strength from Manassas Junction, beyond the mainte nance of the line of the Potomac, then the promeuade into Virginia and to this place was only a sham and a farce, for the wonderful exhibition of four Major-Generals-Patterson, Cadwalader, Keim and Sanford -: I for the edification, if not the pecuniary advantage of the disloyal citizens of Virginia among whom our Quartermaster has spread gold and silver so lavishly for forage at high prices, and rent and damages of traitors bouses and lands occupied by the General and the army. But until I know more of the results of our campaign I shall withhold criticism.

When the camps broke up at Charlestown, yester day, I rode to Martineburg. I returned from that place this morning. There is great alarm there for fear of the return of Col. Stuart's troopers, and a number of Union men bave again fled to Maryland. I met with a few men who had just come from Winchester; they had been pressed into the service of the Rebels, and were retu uing to their homes. Fr m them I gathered many interesting and reliable particulars about th strength and position of the enemy at Winchester, and the retirement of Gen. Jehnston

Gen. Johnston's whole force at Winchester about 42,000 men of all arms-lafantry, cavalry, and artillery.

In artillery he was particularly strong, having 60 gune of various caliber in the fortifications. There were 1,100 cavalry-800 being Virginia light horse, and 300 from various Southern States

Gen. Johnston left Winchester with 35,000 troops a 1 p. m. on Thursday last, to go direct to the sa, port of Beauregard at Manasas Junction, and by his express order. He took the road through Miliwood to Barry's Ford on the Shenandoah, and thence to Piedmont Station, on the Manasans Gap Railroad, a distance of twenty-eight miles. This would be a march of tw days at least, incumbered as he was with heavy artillery. From Piedmont Station to Manassas Junction by ruit is about forty miles. Provision had been made for this movement by taking the freight and passenger cars from the Winchester branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Strasburg, the terminus of the Mannesus Gap road; they were bauled there on their own wheel ver the tarapike.

Gen. Johnston took with bim 52 pieces of artillary and 300 cavalry. The Virginia cavalry, under Col Supert remained to observe the movements of Gen. Patterson, and ten 42-rounders or columbiads were efe at Winchester. Of the 7,000 troops left at Wineheater when Gen

Johnston retired, about 2,500 men were militia from the neighboring counties, who have been disbande and returned home; the rest remained till Saturday when they went to Strasburg, also intending to go Manassas Junction. The situation of Whebester is remarkable, as afford

ing opportunity of nearly a complete circumvallation of fortific tions on high ground or hills about the town, which command completely the valleys for many mile around. The town lies in a basin or trough, open only on the south side. Upon the high grounds Gen. John ton had erected strong fortifications, with great skill and sagnetive nearly surrounding the place, at a dis-tance of two and a half miles from the suburbs. They have all been made since the 6th of the present month, the whole army having been kept constantly at work, up to the last day of occupation, Heavy breastworks. formed in part with logs, and barrels filled with earth protected the batteries, and in part of them were dug des renches or rifle-pits to cover the infantry; the treucher communicated with the inside of the fortifications. The guns were all masked by planting evergreens and artiloisi thickets, which in some places extended into the fields some distance to cover sharpshooters.

Beside the 42-pounders left at Winchester, there were some very heavy rifled pieces. A very formidable part of the artillery was a detachment of (opewith eight game, four of which are so enormous in size and weight as to require 28 borses each to hanl them; They were taken to Manassas Junction by Johnston.

Among the troops was one regiment of over 1,000 Kentuckians, armed with rifles and bowie-knives They refused to take but one round of cartridges to go into the contemplated fight with Gen. Patterson's colown, intending to lie hid on the ground in the artificial thickets until our troops should approach, and then make at them with their bowie-knives. This might have made some desporate fighting; but our bayoners would probably have been an overmatch for their knives. The men of the Kentucky regiment are described as a savage and desperate set, who exhibite their ferocious dispositions on the alightest pretext, and kept every one in terror of them; they consider it s pleasant diversion to chop a man up with an Arkansas oothnick. The wife of one of them is the vivandier of the regiment; she is a thorough soldier, and nets also as lieutenant of a company, which she dritts herself. She is said to be very handsome, and a perfect amazon. Her dress is very gay and conspicuous. Her ruffian comrades take great pride in their fierce and dushing heroine; and she is as anxious to spit a Yankee with her bowie-knife as the bloodiestwretch among them. The King of Dahomey seight be proud of such an acquisition to command his savinge female Body Guard.

For several miles around the fortifications the fences had been leveled to prevent our men from finding cover, and to give a clear field to the charge of their cavalry. There is no accessible high ground on the approach to Winehaster on which our artillery could navo taken position to command the fortifications.

On the recreat of Smart's cavalry from Bunker's Hill last Tuesday they felled trees in several places across the road to Winchester, to impede the paranit by our artitlery.

It is reported at Winehester that Wise has been rucalled with his troops from Western Virginia. The prisoners taken from Gen. Patterson's column have been sent to Richmond.

Fifteen hundred or more sick were left in the Hospials at Winchester. There was no scarcity of fresh provisions, soft bread and beef, but the lack of salt food occasioned much sickness. A large amount of email been distributed.

FROM MARYLAND.

Lying Sanday A Blue Monday Toles of Horror and Woe-Another Rebellion Mept Down-Gen. Dix in Command-The New Garrison Rigorous Treatment of Secession Bad Effects of the Three Mouths' Hen Policy-Tolked of Resene from the Fort Blanchard's Seconion Rearingders Not the General for the Time and Place-Good Effects of bis Retrent on the Government-The Tribune not in Fault-A New Lenf Turned Down.

rum Our Own Correspondent.

Rebel lies. The Rebels had our whole army utterly lestroyed, and Washington in the hands of the tra

Such were the least of our disasters. Yesterday morning broke upon us with the very n verse of these stories, and with the news of the cap-ture of Manassus, stated by The Chipper to have come through Gen. Banks. The arrival of the 7 o'clock a. m. Irdin from Washington, however, brought ales of horror and woe, wi ich set the town beside itself. By-and-by the telegraph began to reveal a state of things that struck terror into our thin-skinned Unionists, and set the Rebeis to dancing for joy and to threat ening Union men with coming vengence. Two or three sudden fights at The Sun and Exchange offices, the headquarters of rubellion, were promptly quelled by our Union Police, who committed to jull some twenty of the Soceab rioters, after a severe handling on the part of some spunkey Unionists. The steady rain, all day and all night, served to cool down the arder of the Jeffitee, which was also prevented from reaching the boiling point by, the instant closing of the grog shops. But the vigorous police measures as on foot by the new authorities, backed as they were by the presence of some 8,000 bayonets, and the Bos on Artillery, with old Col. Marris's columbials and 10-inch mortars at the Fort, were the true source of our escape from an outbreak of the rebel mob. The state of feeling in town, yesterday, served to convince the Government, that in its dealings with Baltimore, it has been none too harsh. Indeed, it now sees, that had the treatment more beroic, it would have been bet

Gen. Dix, who succeeds Gen. Banks, entered on his duties in part yesterday, and will be in complete coumand to-day. Gen. Banks was to leave this morning for the Shenandosh corps dermice, with his aids, Capt Williams and Capt. Kurtz It is with no little regre that the real Unionists of Baltimore part with Gen. Banks, but they are compensated by the appointment of Gen. Dix, in whom they have every confidence Like Bunks, he comes free from the trammels of social relations to the people of the town, so that he can act impartially and with sole reference to the preservation of the public peace and perpetuity of the United States.

ter for all parties.

The Pennsylvania three years regiments, now por ing into Baltimore almost every Exchours, are stopped here to take the place of the sures months men whose times are now out. The force to be stationed here is to be increused to 10,000 men, and the most rigorous treatment of Secession with be pursued, wherever and whenever it shall dave to raise its Meduschead. The Rebel Legislature will not be permitted to convene again, to hatch treason and poison the public T e traitors already caged and to be esged, will be made such examples of as will follower prevent a repeption of the rebellion. The time is now come for sotion. The rebellion is to be dealt with, at last, as as absolute fact, and not as a myth.

The unwise policy of calling out three months men now seen and reglized. Their times are expiring just as they are wanted and they have been so poon and inefficiently officered, and so stamefully by the States that furnished them, that they will nearly all return home. A blunder is worse than a crime, said Talleyrand; if so, then the Government has been guilty of a great many crimes, for its course of policy has been almost one continued series of military and other blunders. Just in the very nick of time that every bayonet is needed to counteract the abaneful roye, se at Manassas, we see regiment after regiment setting its faces homeward, bringing with it the disastrous news of the punic that sent 50,000 brave soldiers reeling back to the breastworks of Arlington Highte, and bearing in the persons of the men them selves evidences of the criminal conduct of the contractors who fitted them out only 90 days ago. Why was not all this foreseen in the beginning?

The Rebels of this town are talking very loudly of rescuing Kane, the three ex-Police Comm the French h.dy, Thomas, from the iron grasp of Col. Morris at Fort McHenry. They had relied on Judge Taney and the District-Attorney to get them out of bail, and hence the haste in finding indictments that will not hold water. But, being foited in this schome they are contemplating a rescue. Col. Morris is really for them us may been. Kone is said to be say ill with typhus fever, but they who know him laugh at the news, and say he is only shamming. If he can after to sham, Col. Merris cannot.

Mr. Blanchard, one of the members of the Circ Council, has reported upon Mayor Brown's rebelling message: inderses all the Mayor says, and roars feet ficreely against the Government for preventing a second rebeilion in Baltimore, by breaking up Kane's nest of traitors. This was expected—so notody is disp-pointed in Mr. Blanchard. But the fun of the thiogis, he appeals to the very Government he is an enemy of for the restoration of the status quo? What larged brass these Seconders have!

rather panic. Notwithstanding the very high opinion that the General-in-Chief had of Gen. McDowell, in result shows that he was not the man for leading set an army as was placed under his command to viewy. I have no desire to detractone jots from his real most but the event proves that he is not endowed with military genius that displays itself in precisely set circumstances as those that crossed his path, and eables the true general to overcome them. The sig Tyler's recommissance in face of the Bull's Run batter, last Friday, was by no means a favorable indication his generalship, for if it was not his act, he should have instantly penished Tyler by removing him. Total he had incompetent generals under him no man all doubt; but they do not excuse his own want of the far-secing and vigorous generalship which makes up for such deficiencies. The body lacked a head of affcient power to direct its movements successfully.

But the greatest blunder was in permitting Congremen and other civilians to accompany the army, h wagers to get between his columns. Teamsters and civilians (reporters for the press always except d') got the very material for a panic. When Gen. McDo found binnelf thus encumbered, he should have rebals! Gen. Manafield for allowing any Congressman or die ilian to pass the lines, other than the press gang by simply pasting them under guard and sending them best to Arbington, before he moved a single step. But fathese blunders, the retreat would have been made it good order, and the Bull's Run battery might have been held, until his reserves could come up. There was, however, another more fatal and any

cusable blunder, and that was, in allowing an advance at all upon the works beyond the Ball's Ran betterist, which appear to be one of the main corner fortile a conof the great square, in the midst of which is the Justion, outil he should be able to present a force equal at least to the enemy, who had been re-enforced by Johnston, owing to Patterson's criminal negligenesser ignerance, if ne worse. It seems that Gop. McDowell was apprised of Johnson's arrival at the Junction the night provious to the battle. To sum up in a few word, Gen. McDowell was besten, or nuber driven back by

his own want of generalship.

But this reverse—what will come of it? It has dote already one good thing. It has served to convines the Government that the Rebels are in carnest, and that we must put forth our whole strength, and go into the battle with our whole heart if we would crush out the Rebellion. There has been too much holding lack everywhere. The only Generals whose hearts was in the thing up to this time, are Lyon and Met lellas, and see the result! The country will rejoice to McCleban of the bend of the army of the P tons and Banks at the head of that of the Shenandonh, North we shall see things done as they ought to be det.

Jeff. Davis may us well give up Manassa, first as in
for McClellan will larve it and him too if he dares. commend in person. Resencesar will take care Wise and Floyd. And lot us hope, now, that Reti will be strengthened so as to allow him to savance I notice that the defeat of McDowell is laid at the

door of THE TRIBONE. Ie not this mean? Why, h The town was kept in turmoil all day Sunday, with | it had not been for the exhertations and argest appeal